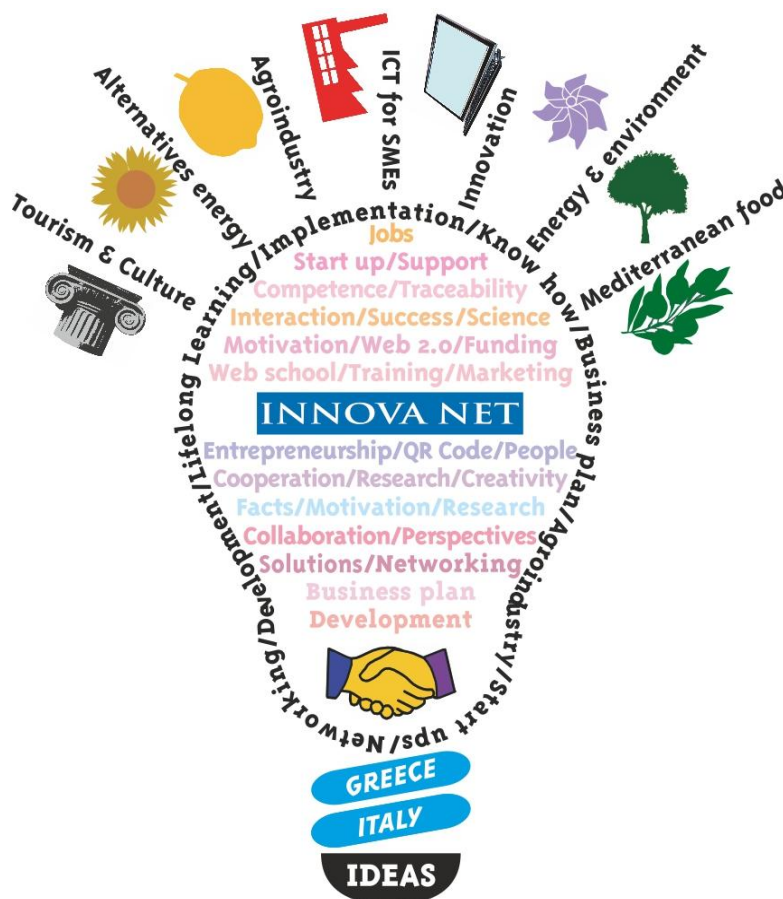


INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF COMPETENCES FOR INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

PRIORITY AXIS 1: STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1: STRENGTHENING INTERACTION BETWEEN RESEARCH, INNOVATION, SMES AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



INNOVA NET call for a selection of SME's for an innovation transfer program

WP 6



TRAINING AND INNOVATION
 UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM



POLYTECHNIC
 OF BARI



UNIVERSITY
 OF PATRAS



ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ
 ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ
 ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
 ΤΕΙ ΗΡΕΙΠΟΥ



DEVELOPMENT
 ASSOCIATION
 OF ILIA

ARTICLE 1 – Purposes and Object

Within the INNOVA NET project, **Work Package 6** is aimed at selecting reliable and realistic transfer projects of organisational and technological innovation to be carried out in SMEs, in order to stimulate innovation and to provide a check-up and tutoring service.

The **selection of 6 small and medium enterprise companies interested in implementing innovation processes** is one of the activities undertaken under WP6 (3 from Greece and 3 from Italy).

The support provided by the INNOVA NET project to each one of the 6 selected companies will consist, for each company, in the following services:

- a. Consultancy meetings;
- b. Check-up report.

A maximum of 4 days or 24 hours of consultancy/tutoring experts activity will be provided, addressed to the company stakeholders (entrepreneurs, director, other responsible roles) indicated by the company.

At the end of activities a final evaluation report will be produced for each company involved in the programme, focused on their innovation capability and how to begin/improve a reliable and realistic transfer project of organisational and or technological innovation.

ARTICLE 2 – A few words about the INNOVA NET project

The **INNOVA NET** project stems from previous experience of partners and from feasibility studies on the creation of a school as part of transnational innovation produced through the INNOVA project, funded by INTERREG Greece-Italy 2000-2006.

The Italian and Greek territories considered in the project (***Apulia Region, Prefecture of Achaia, Prefecture of Ilia, Prefecture of Arta***) present a relatively similar socioeconomic background.

The project will thus form a stable network between universities, research institutes, companies and local institutions in the territories involved, through the consolidation of skills in 4 key areas, vital to local development in both Italy and Greece. Such a relationship should develop with the needs of companies and the entire economic and social structure at its base, supported by innovative projects allowing for solutions to institutional problems through a participatory approach to Greek and Italian organizations, institutions and businesses.

In the INNOVA NET project, four (4) economic areas of great strategic importance for the socio-economic development of both countries have been identified and treated as centres for developing competence: **Energy & Environment, Cultural Heritage & Tourism, ICT for SMEs and Agribusiness & Mediterranean food diet.**

With a view to developing skills in these areas, the INNOVA NET project, through a transnational approach and joint action by universities, research centres, SMEs and public authorities, aims to strengthen the competitiveness and accelerate the process of internationalization of companies operating in the economic fields identified.

ARTICLE 3 – Eligibility requirements

At the date of the submission of the application:

1. The applicant companies must be resident in one of the eligible Greek and Italian territories, i.e. Prefecture of Achaia, Prefecture of Ilia, Prefecture of Arta (from Greece) and Apulia Region (from Italy) and must want to improve innovation in their organisation.
2. The applicant companies must be small and medium enterprises;
3. The applicant companies must operate in one of the areas of intervention (see Art.4).

ARTICLE 4 – Areas of intervention

The INNOVA NET Project supports consultancy/tutoring and check-ups regarding innovation transfer in order to improve company skills for innovation in the following areas of intervention:

- a) Energy & Environment
- b) Cultural Heritage & Tourism
- c) Information & Communication Technologies for Small-Medium Enterprises
- d) Agribusiness & Mediterranean food & diet.

ARTICLE 5 - How to apply - Deadline

Candidates may submit their Application Package:

- by **email** to info@innova-net.eu **by midnight on February 28** (for technical reasons linked to the electronic mailboxes, the Application Package can be sent using one or more separated and numbered e-mails);

In order to provide relevant information for effective evaluation, applicants **must submit:**

- The fully completed Application Form (Annex 1);
- A copy of an identification document (identity card or passport) of the legal representative.

Applications submitted in forms other than the ones annexed to the present call will be automatically rejected.

For the Application packages delivered within the deadline, an email will register acknowledgment of receipt.

ARTICLE 6 – Criteria & procedures for the selection

The criteria and the procedure for the selection of the 6 participants (3 in Greece and 3 in Italy) that will receive the tutoring and the check-up in innovation services will be based on the documents submitted in the application. Applications will be evaluated by the Steering Committee of the INNOVA NET project.

The assessment of the merits of the applicant companies will be through the allocation of an overall score resulting from the sum of the analytical scores, assigned according **to the following criteria:**

a) Quality of the company – Characteristics of the company: employers, quality of product or services produced, new business or a business with a high percentage of women and young people (under 35 years of age) as owner or employers (max. 40 points);

b) Degree of Innovation - Innovative character of the company and/or innovative ideas (max. 30 points);

d) Quality and Sustainability – Quality management system and sustainability policy in terms of environmental and social factors – available certifications and internal standards (max. 20 points);

e) Other - Distinctive elements of company and a transnational approach (max. 10 points).

The Steering Committee will select specifically appointed requests, drafting appropriate ranking.

ARTICLE 7 – Ranking

The Beneficiaries of the INNOVA NET programme will be informed by email no later than 5 days following the closure of the selection procedure and will be invited to send an “Acceptance form” of participation by email to: info@innova-net.eu.

The selected beneficiaries will have to fully respect the deadlines and procedures specified.

ARTICLE 8 – Procedures for the selection

The criteria and the procedure for the selection of the six (6) final beneficiaries (3 in Italy and 3 in Greece) who will take part in the programme are determined by the Steering Committee and the Jury Committee.

Applications will be evaluated by the Jury Committee appointed by the INNOVA NET Steering Committee.



INNOVA NET

The Steering Committee, during the examination and evaluation of the applications, reserves the right to contact and/or request additional information from applicants in order to carry out more detailed assessment. The Steering Committee's decision is final.

ARTICLE 9 – Final ranking

The selected candidates will be informed by email no later than 5 days following the closure of the final selection procedure and they will be invited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the corresponding partners in Greece and in Italy.

ARTICLE 10 – Schedule of activities

Activities will take place in the period from March to the 15th April 2014.

ARTICLE 11 – Confidentiality and Privacy

All entities involved are required to ensure full respect for the confidentiality of information to be provided by the applicants and those selected and involved in INNOVA NET Business Incubator activities.

The INNOVA NET project declares that all personal information will be treated confidentially and in compliance with national and European laws on personal data protection as currently applied. Personal information will not be passed on to third parties.